

# **METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR HIGH-SPEED ACCESS TO AND SHARING OF STORAGE DEVICES ON A NETWORKED DIGITAL DATA PROCESSING SYSTEM**

## **Abstract of the Invention**

A digital data processing system with improved access to information stored on a peripheral device is provided. A bypass mechanism, which executes on at least a first node (e.g., a client node), intercedes in the response to at least selected input/output, or access, requests generated by that node. The bypass transfers data designated by such requests between the first node and a peripheral device (e.g., a disk drive) over a third communications pathway, in lieu of transferring that data via a second node (e.g., a server node) and a first communications pathway (e.g., a network) between the first and second node and a second communications pathway between the second node and peripheral device. Such transfers by the bypass, however, are made using the administrative information maintained by the file system relating to storage of such data on the peripheral device.

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